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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-185	DATE 17 August 1950
TITLE UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT 31 July 1950, St. John's, Nfld. Captain NICHOLAS SALPAS		REPORT MADE BY S/A Ralph O. Robillard	
		REPORT MADE AT Pepperrell AFB, Newfoundland	
		PERIOD 1 August to 15 August 1950	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN D. O. #4	
		STATUS CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE INSPECTOR OF SPEC INV KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF Historian 3 DEC 1975 DATE	
CHARACTER Special Inquiry--Unconventional Aircraft			
REFERENCE AFCSI Letter 106			
SYNOPSIS			
Shortly after 2200 hours on 31 July 1950 an unidentifiable object was sighted travelling in a westerly direction over the vicinity of St. John's, Newfoundland. No details of the object were visible and it appeared as a bright greenish light under the overcast. It seemed to break into two distinct pieces each of which became a dull colored light and then to disappear. <u>DETAILS:</u> Captain Nicholas Salpas, 1933-1 AACN Pepperrell Air Force Base was questioned, stated at 2205 hours 31 July '50, I was in front of Building 805 driving Southwest along roadway on Pepperrell AFB. At the intersection of Snelling Avenue and Cabot Avenue. We turned East and as we turned we looked South and saw a moving green light under the overcast. I stopped the car and saw the object going from east to west. It was travelling very fast. It moved in a straight line and I watched it for about 10 seconds. It was dark and all I could see was the light portion. It appeared as a small round light, very bright, but made no reflection on the clouds. I distinguished no sounds; as I watched it broke into two distinct pieces and each became a dull colored light, then they disappeared. When it broke, the pieces kept going for a short distance on the level before they dropped slightly and went out without leaving sparks or any other visible trace. 1st Lt. Michael J. LYNN, Auditor General Department, USAF was questioned, and stated, at approximately 2200 hours 31 July '50, I was in my room in the BOQ looking out of the window toward Signal Hill which overlooks St. John's, Nfld.			
DISTRIBUTION CG AMC - 2 HQ MATS - 2 OSI - 2 CG PEPPERRELL - 2 File - 2		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright Patterson AFB Dayton, Ohio APPROVED <i>Carl M. Swenson</i> CARL M. SWENSON Lt. Colonel, USAF Air Inspector	
		FILE STAMP DOWNGRADED AT 12-YEAR INTERVALS NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED DOD DIR. 5200.10 24C-185-700 24C-185-700-2 USAF IG OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS	

AFHQ FORM
15 JAN 49

O-208

Replaces AFCSI Form 4, 23 Jul 48, which may be used.

16-57744-1

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2.

I saw an object which appeared in all details to be a comet going from East to West on a track south of my position. It was impossible to determine the distance to the object or its size. It appeared as a burning object with a long wake. I watched it for several seconds, after which it appeared to split into two portions and dissipate before any angle of descent was noticed. It broke up in mid-air much in the manner of a disintegrating comet. I first noticed it at approximately a 45° angle to my left and it crossed before me and disintegrated at approximately a 45° angle to my right. My window faces magnetic South.

W/Sgt Robert W. FREEMAN, Pepperrell Air Force Base was questioned and stated at 2205 local time, 31 July 1960, Sgt W.Z. Nicodemus and I left the NCO Club. We followed the sidewalk that runs along the north side of the NCO Club. We were facing in a westerly direction. Upon coming to the end of the club building, Sgt. Nicodemus called my attention to a flame that could be seen in the air. No object was discernable. The general direction of travel was Northwest. The estimated altitude was between 3 to 5 thousand feet. Approximate distance from the NCO Club put object, I would say, over the west end of Quidi Vidi Lake. The object appeared from the general direction of Cabot Tower and seemed to disappear near the top of Kanawh Hill. In my opinion, the burning charge was of a rocket type. The flame was of a bluish color changing to a reddish orange at the tail of the flame. At one point the flame seemed to fade out as though it were burned out, then the flame seemed to renew itself as though fresh charge had been set off. It is possible that the object could have passed behind a scud cloud. The weather at the time of sighting was good. There were some strata clouds to the west and some scud clouds overhead. Cloud coverage was about 3/10. Stars were visible. The object was not travelling at a great rate of speed. The object was seen for no longer than 15 seconds.

Constable R. R. HICKEY and Cpl A. EWING of the R.C.M.P. were questioned and made statements substantially the same as that of W/Sgt FREEMAN.

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-185	DATE 18 August 1950
TITLE Unconventional Aircraft 30 July 1950, St. John's, Nfld. Mr. Roland Hann		REPORT MADE BY S/A Ralph O. Robillard	
		REPORT MADE AT Pepperrell AFB, Newfoundland	
		PERIOD 31 July - 18 August 1950	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN D.O. #4	
STATUS R.U.C.			
CHARACTER Special Inquiry--Unconventional Aircraft			
REFERENCE AFCSI LTR. 106			
SYNOPSIS Various persons in the vicinity of St. John's, Newfoundland have reported that on the evening of 30 July '50 at approximately 2015 hours, an unconventional aircraft was seen flying over the area North of Pepperrell Air Force Base and St. John's, Newfoundland. Detailed descriptions of the object were varied and few definite details could be established. Estimates of size, shape and speed varied widely but the general consensus of opinion was that the aircraft did not attain any extraordinary rate of speed while in sight. Some witnesses indicate that object may have struck ground in the vicinity of Pepperrell Air Force Base but to date it has not been found or reported. <u>DETAILS:</u> This is a joint investigation of S/A William W. McNeill and S/A Ralph O. Robillard. Mr. Roland HANN a painter of Kings Road, St. John's, Newfoundland was interviewed and stated at approximately 2012 hours, 30 July '50, I was sitting on the top of the hill at the ball park in St. John's with my 8 year old son. He kept looking toward the buildings at Pepperrell and asking, what's this building and so on. As we looked, I saw a strange object in the sky near the area of the towers on the far side of the base. It was a blunt headed object, perhaps two or three feet in diameter, and at least 10 feet long. It was moving fast and trailing a brilliant stream of flame. It was only in sight about three or four seconds, and was gone. It seemed to appear from behind the hills.			
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APPROVED <i>Carl M. Swenson</i> CARL M. SWENSON Lt. Colonel, USAF Air Inspector		CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INV BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF Historian DATE 3 DEC 1975	
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Lt. Col. Hugh D. MAXWELL, Jr. Director of Intelligence, Pepperrell AFB, Hfld. was interviewed and stated, between 2000 and 2030 local time, 30 July 1950, while in-bound to St. John's on Topsail Road, the undersigned sighted an unidentified object at about 30 to 40 degree angle above the horizon travelling in a north-westerly direction. Object resembled meteor or shooting star in general appearance but was too close (estimated 5 or 6 miles) and too low (estimated 5,000 or 6,000 feet) to be a meteor. Object was travelling in a flat arc; had brilliant greenish glow which burned out just before striking the ground at a distance estimated to have been 8 to 10 miles northwest of St. John's. Object was assumed to have been some sort of signal flare or rocket although the distance travelled and evident size of object gave a different appearance from normal signal flares.

Lt. Col. John R. MARTIN of Pepperrell AFB, Hfld. was interviewed and stated he saw, at approximately 8:00-8:30 o'clock 30 July 1950, an aerial object shoot across the sky from southeast to northwest. He stated that it travelled in an almost horizontal line but had a definite arc. He stated that he was positive it was a meteor, the most beautiful he had ever seen.

M/Sgt Charles C. PAINTER, 1933-1 AACB Pepperrell AFB, Hfld. was interviewed and stated, at about 2015, 30 July 50 I saw something that flashed in from the sea toward White Hills and died out. It looked like a meteor to me. It was approximately four feet in diameter and had a bright red flame behind it. It appeared circular in shape and appeared like a ball of fire. I was 1 1/2 miles from the object. It was in fairly level flight at about 2,500 feet, no smoke, no sound, weather was fairly clear, flame behind was short and flat, not a long trail or pointed. No wings or other lift apparent. No jet openings or exhaust ports visible. No visible control surfaces. As I watched, it darkened right over the transmitter site at White Hills and went out all at once. Nothing appeared to fall and I could no longer see the object. No apparent explosion. I have previously seen meteors but never that close to the ground.

S/Sgt Joseph R. BILADRAU, 1933-1 AACB, Pepperrell AFB, Hfld. was interviewed and stated, at about 2015 hours, 30 July '50 I was coming to the base in my car along Quidi Vidi Blvd. and I saw an object described below come out of the overcast above the hill behind the base incinerator. It was approximately the size of a C-47 fuselage perhaps a little longer considering the flame. It broke through about 1000 feet above the top of the hill at about 45° travelling toward the ground. The object was alone. It was travelling directly toward the tower at White Hills. The first section appeared to be a yellowish cream color, the rest was the color of fire, but I could not say if it was a flame or not. The actual flame appeared to be a very hot flame and extended approximately 30 feet behind and was about 10 feet in diameter. I could see no smoke. I could hear no sound whatsoever. I noticed no effect on the clouds, it was so quick. The speed was too fast to notice any detail. I could see no wings. It was travelling at about

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250 l.s.s. It disappeared down behind the White Hills transmitter site. It did not change in appearance from the time I saw it until it disappeared. It did not appear as a meteor but rather from out at sea. I have seen shooting stars but this did not appear the same. I was completely sober at the time.

Harry C. SKOGSTROM, Jr. 1226th Air Base Group, Pepperrell AFB, Hfld. was interviewed and stated that at approximately 2000 hours, 30 July '50, I was just crossing the bridge over Virginia Waters, Pepperrell AFB going toward HHC Headquarters. I looked up and saw an object over the valley at the top of White Hills near the transmitter site. It was travelling at a rather high rate of speed and was in sight for approximately one full second. It was moving in a shallow downward arc and disappeared in the vicinity of the White Hills transmitter site. It looked as if it struck the ground. It appeared yellowish red in color, and was in appearance at that distance (one mile away) the size of a soft ball (5" in diameter). I could see no details other than that it was round in appearance. No smoke that I recall. The object appeared to be spinning and it had a considerable flame and spark trail behind it. There was no distinguishable sound. It was brightly aflame as long as I could see it.

S/Sgt Justa V. Masquera FURLONG, 1226th AB Group, Pepperrell AFB, Hfld. was interviewed and stated that at approximately 2000 hours, 30 July '50, I was coming into Kelligrews, Hfld. from Argentia, Hfld. with my husband. We were both in the front seat and driving slowly when I saw a streak going across the sky like a lighted torch from the right to the left in front of us. It was impossible to tell the distance but the sky was overcast. It broke out of a cloud and after travelling a short way, disappeared into another cloud. It had no effect on the clouds that I could see. It appeared like a ball of fire with a long fiery tail like a comet. It was travelling at a terrific speed, or so it seemed.

Mr. Miles FURLONG, 72 Bonaventure Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland, was interviewed and gave substantially the same report as his wife. He also stated, I have seen such items before in this area and it is not unusual. It appeared as a very brilliant ball of fire with a long trail like a comet. It appeared to be a long way off. The sky was heavily overcast and we only saw it through the break. It disappeared behind a cloud.

Charles A. VIGH, 1933-1 AACB, Pepperrell AFB, Hfld. was interviewed and stated, I was on 1600 hours to 2400 hours shift at White Hills, transmitter site, Pepperrell AFB, Hfld. on 30 July 50. At approximately 2020 hours, I was on my bunk reading and I heard a distinct thud as if someone had closed a jeep door or something similar, but not as sharp a sound, more like something hitting the ground. I do not think it was far away. In fact, I arose and looked around thinking it might be the O.D.'s jeep on his routine check but I could see nothing.

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4.

M.Sgt Merle D. RATHBURN and the writer conducted a ground survey in the vicinity of the White Hills near the transmitter site but no material of a questionable nature could be located.

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. AFCS I 24-185	DATE 21 August 1950
TITLE Unconventional Aircraft Sighted by Mrs. James ALLEN Flat Rock, Nfld. at approxi- mately 2200 hours 12 Aug '50.		REPORT MADE BY S/A Ralph O. Robillard	
		REPORT MADE AT Pepperrell AFB, Newfoundland	
		PERIOD 15 - 21 August 1950	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN AFG 882, c/o FM, New York, New York	
		STATUS R.U.C.	
CHARACTER Special Inquiry--Unconventional Aircraft			
REFERENCE AFCSI Letter 106.			
SYNOPSIS Mrs. James ALLEN, Flat Rock, Newfoundland stated that at 2215 hours, ap- proximately, 12 August 1950 she sighted some manner of unconventional aircraft (see attached drawing) flying in a southerly direction over the vicinity of Red Rock (a point near Flat Rock). <u>DETAILS:</u> Mrs. James ALLEN, Flat Rock, Newfoundland offers the following statement: On 12 August '50, between 2215 and 2230 hours, I was out behind my house. I heard a fairly loud hiss, and I looked out toward Red Head (North, north east) and I saw an object flying toward Torbay Airport (Southerly direction). It appeared to be about 110 feet up (estimated by ground distance). It was about 4 1/2 feet long and about a foot in diameter. There was a reddish glow along the front and the rest was darkish except for a red flame behind it about as long as itself. It made no reflection on the clouds. Sky was clear and bright. It moved on toward Torbay Airport and out of sight. It was going very fast, I could not say the speed. Torbay Traffic was checked and it was discovered that only one C-54 air- craft was in the air during the evening of 12 August 1950 at 2115 hours and again at approximately 2140 hours. No jet aircraft have been recorded in the vicinity during the month of August, to date.			
DISTRIBUTION CG AMC - 2 HQ MATS - 2 OSI - 2 CO PEPPERRELL - 2 File - 2		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright Patterson Dayton, Ohio ATTN: MCIAK-3 APPROVED <i>Carl M. Swenson</i> CARL M. SWENSON Lt. Colonel, USAF Air Inspector FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY District Commander.	

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DOD DIR. 5200.10

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BY *W. K. KUNZE*, Capt, USAF
Historian
DATE 3 DEC 1975

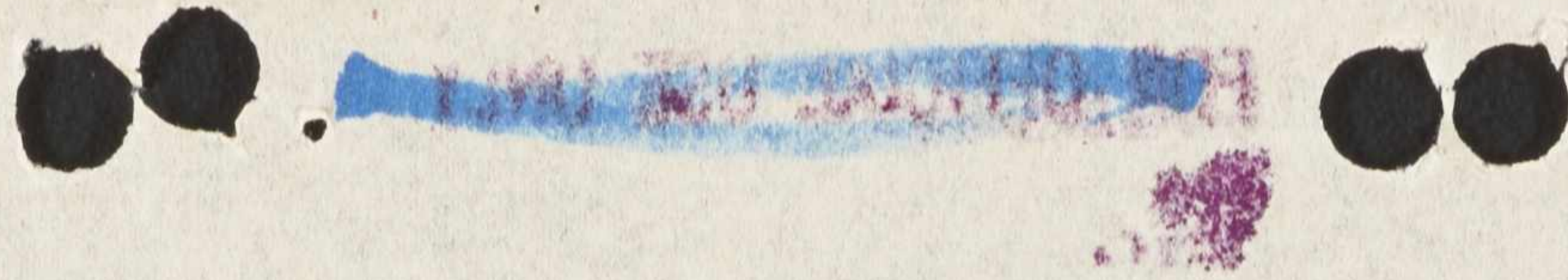
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2.

Weather Station, Torbay, Newfoundland was checked for the weather on 12 August 1950 with the following results: At 2000 hours visibility 12 miles, scattered clouds at 10,000 feet, temperature 62°; at 2200 hours sky clear, winds 12 mph, little change during the balance of the night except for a mild change in temperature. Dew point remained at approximately 57.

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AF483983

COUNTRY USA - MATS	REPORT NO. IR-304-52	(LEAVE BLANK) 483983
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INV BY VIRT K KUNZE, Capt, USAF (Restricted) FROM Historian HQ Air Rescue Service Washington 25, D. C. DATE DEC 1975 EVALUATION A-2		
SUBJECT False Alert, Port Au Port, Newfoundland	DATE OF REPORT 17 July 1952	DATE OF INFORMATION 15 June 1952
AREA REPORTED ON Newfoundland	PREPARED BY (Officer) Edward J. Harris, Major, USAF	SOURCE Official Document (Duty Controllers Log)
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

1. This item reported in SMIR, Flight B, 6th ARS, dated 16 June 1952, by Intelligence Officer of that unit. Copy to 6602 ABW.

2. On 15 June 1952, 0120Z, Flight B, 6th ARS, duty controller received a telephone call from a woman representing herself as Father Richard J. Green's housekeeper, and who stated a Mr. Joseph Howe reported seeing an aircraft falling into the water off Sheaver Cove on the south coast of the Port Au Port Peninsula, Newfoundland, about 30 miles west of Ernest Harmon AFB. Plane reportedly made a loud noise upon contact with the water. GANDER was requested to check on all aircraft in the vicinity, including private planes. At 0224Z results showed no planes missing or in distress. Local RCMPs were contacted and they advised that no other reports of the incident were reported.

3. Personnel in Harmon tower reported seeing a falling star at the approximate time of the Sheaver Cove sighting. A RCMP patrol confirmed this.

4. An ARS aircraft stood by, but no aircraft were dispatched.

5. Intelligence Officer, Flight B, states this is the third false alert originating from the Port Au Port area. On 28 February 1952, Father Green reported an aircraft in distress overhead at Campbell's Creek, 13 miles west of Harmon. On 13 May 1951, a Mrs. Edmund Renort reported through a Mr. Robert Green that a strange object was sighted moving off shore at Ship Cove, 20 miles west of Harmon. RCMPs advised ARS personnel that the originator of the current report, Joseph Rowe, has a habit of "always seeing things" and cannot be evaluated as a reliable source.

APPROVED:

Joseph R. W. Couture
JOSEPH R. W. COUTURE
Major, USAF
Acting Chief, Air Intelligence Division

INCLS.

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